

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-16 and 18-20 were pending in the application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 7 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. The Amendments are submitted solely to place the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-5, 7, 9-16 and 18-20 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejections under 35 USC § 112

In sections 4-8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as allegedly failing to comply with the statutory requirements.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's suggestions in the Office Action. Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating on a call with the undersigned attorney today that the Examiner would entertain an interview if further clarification is necessary.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 7 and 9 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

3. Claim Objections

In sections 9-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1 and 7 for minor informalities. Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the typographical error and have amended claim 7 as suggested.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

4. Allowable Subject Matter

In sections 11-12 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable over the cited art and would be allowable if amended to overcome

the states rejections under 35 USC 112. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4-5, 7, 9-16 and 18-20 are in condition for allowance

5. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

6. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this Communication. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-822-O1.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time that is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-822-O1.

Respectfully submitted,
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